

SUCCESS STORY

HOW SMALL BUSINESSES ARE GROWING STRONGER TO DELIVER MORE IN HAITI

Konbit's goal is to increase the number of local development partners influencing and achieving significant and sustainable development results in Haiti, who are accountable to their constituents and who are able to effectively compete for and manage resources.



CEGEC staff attend a Konbit-supported training.



Samuèle Christophe receiving certificate for Sub Award training



François Chavenet, Owner and Director Associate, CEGEC

September 2018--In Haiti, small and local businesses account for 80 percent of employment and are vital to the national economy. However, for many, a lack of knowledge and investment affects performance and profits and constrains growth.

François Chavenet is the owner and Associate Director of the Cabinet d'Études de Gestion d'Économie et de Comptabilité (CEGEC). Established in 1992, his accounting company employs 30 people. In order for CEGEC to grow, Chavenet understood the need to strengthen his business services to deliver sustainable results.

Since 2015, he has participated in a series of trainings and grants under USAID's Konbit (which means "teamwork" in Creole) project. As a result, his clients are satisfied and his business now has the required qualifications to work with international institutions. This will "allow CEGEC to broaden its clientele and scope of work in the long term," said Chavenet.

"Today we are stronger, and we provide a range of quality services," said Samuèle Christophe, CEGEC's administrator.

"Konbit gave us the means to take CaseWare training and purchase the software. We were also able to upgrade to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)," explained Chavenet.

To date, Konbit has provided trainings for over 67 local businesses. In addition, a virtual platform was launched in 2017 (konbit.ht) and now boasts over 600 local organizations.

The Konbit project, which runs from 2015 to 2020, is designed to improve the performance and profits of local service providers while encouraging collaboration, adoption of the latest technology, and sharing of best practices, innovation and results. The project is part of USAID's Local Solutions initiative.